

May 1, 1953

National Sciences division
The Rockefeller Foundation
49 West 49 Street
New York 20, N.Y.

Gentlemen:

As you know, the Foundation has been supporting our research program on bacterial immunogenetics, with a grant which is scheduled to expire four months hence. It is necessary that I now look forward to seeking provision for our subsequent needs.

I have always deeply appreciated the informality with which the Foundation has negotiated with us in the past. If it were possible, I would look forward to a personal interview with any of your representatives who may chance to visit Madison in the near future. I regret that I do not contemplate a visit to New York at present. If this is not feasible, I should like the opportunity to submit a request for renewed support from the foundation. Pending the completion of the term of the present grant, when a more complete report will be gladly submitted, I enclose a copy of a report recently returned to the National Institutes of Health, and another to the Atomic Energy Commission, as an interim accounting of our research progress.

May I also briefly outline our budgetary situation. During the past two or three years, we have had substantial support from the Atomic Energy Commission and especially from the Chemical Corps. However, the direction of our research has deviated from the original objectives of the contracts. In addition, clearance requirements have tended to embarrass publication. (Such clearance, for our unclassified research, has entailed no question of national security, but appears to be primarily concerned with questions of patentability. The irrelevance of these to our particular work does not alleviate the administrative delays). I am not, therefore, seeking to renew these contracts.

Including my own salary, I can expect research support from intramural sources of about \$15,000 p.a. The National Institutes of Health has awarded a research grant (subject to legislative approval) of \$9,000, with a four-year commitment of intention. Our laboratory needs will depend on our ability to find the right people, but are estimated at an additional \$6,000 - \$8,000 per annum. About 70% of these funds are required for salaries (heavily weighted this year with requirements for post-doctoral associates, but including graduate student and technical assistants. The remaining 30% is divided among glassware and chemical supplies, without about 10% for durable apparatus. I have not yet mentioned a very considerable expenditure planned by the University for the remodelling and refurnishing of our laboratory space. I do not need to dwell on the advantages to the investigator of commitments for 3-4-5 years.

This statement of our position should not be construed as a formal application, which may be made in due course through the usual and necessary channels. I hope you will not consider inappropriate that I apprise the Foundation of our present position, as a preliminary to further discussions.

You will, I know, appreciate my concern over initiating these discussions early enough so that commitments may be made to present and prospective workers in our research group. The likely members of this group for next year include, in addition to myself, Dr. E. M. [Mrs. J] Lederberg, Dr. T. C. Nelson, Mr. M. L. Morse, Miss Helen Byers, presently with us, and Dr. Aleck Bernstein and possibly one other associate or assistant, not yet settled. The allocation of specific funds towards these salaries has not been made.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Associate Professor of Genetics